

[27 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Gujarat earthquake

4587. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an earthquake of severe intensity recorded on 26th January, 2001 in Gujarat has made large number of children orphans;

(b) if so, the details of such children, district-wise;

(c) whether Government have provided maximum relief to such children;

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(e) whether Government have undertaken any programmes for rehabilitation of these children; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) More than 20,000 human lives have been lost and about 410 orphans are required to be taken care of. District-wise details are not maintained.

(c) to (f) The primary responsibility for undertaking relief measures and distribution of relief at the ground level is that of the State Government. Funds amounting to Rs. 830 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) have been released to the State Government for taking necessary measures.

Assistance to Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Rehabilitation Development Fund

4588. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had proposed to set up a Co-operative Rehabilitation Development Fund to assist banks in the co-operative sector at various levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister had written to the Minister for Agriculture to provide assistance to integrated co-operative credit structure of Andhra Pradesh, out of the Co-operative Rehabilitation and Development Fund; and

(d) if so, the action taken on that request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Task Force constituted by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Shri Jagdish Capoor, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India to study the functioning of the Cooperative Credit System and suggest measures for its strengthening has recommended for the establishment of a Cooperative Rehabilitation and Development Fund in NABARD.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Government has been apprised of the position that the Cooperative Rehabilitation and Development Fund has not yet been established.

Import of Breeding Stock for Poultry Industry

4589. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import breeding stock, particularly stock for poultry industry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to safeguard the Indian poultry industry; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to prevent import of diseases like Alavian Lemkoris Virus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government of India is allowing import of breeding stock for poultry